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**The Virginia Partners for Safe Driving request your support of HB874 and SB160!**

***Please help save lives and protect the citizens of the Commonwealth by voting in favor of a Hand-held phone ban. #HandsFreeVA***

* 21 states and the District of Columbia now ban the use of handheld devices while driving. Last year in the United States, there was a 2.4% decrease in traffic fatalities. (NHTSA)
* 13 states saw an average 16% decrease in traffic fatalities within 2 years of passing a handheld device ban. (Georgia House Study Committee on Distracted Driving)

**We have VERY STRONG laws on the books for driving under the influence of alcohol. We need to address driver distraction – which is another form of impaired driving - in the same manner.**

* The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration identified distracted driving as “a crisis that needs to be addressed now.”
* Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety found Virginia to be one of 11 states considered “dangerously behind” in driving safety laws.
* 80% of all crashes and 65% of all near crashes involve driver inattention within 3 seconds of the crash. (Virginia Tech)
* Virginia drivers observed in a 2018 Insurance Institute for Highway Safety roadside survey were 57% more likely to be manipulating a cellphone than drivers in a 2014 survey.
* Texting (in essence manipulating a phone) while driving increases your crash risk by 2300%, because it involves all THREE kinds of distraction – manual, visual and cognitive. It is by far the most egregious form of distracted driving.
* In a Liberty Mutual survey, 80% of teens reported that they viewed APP use while driving as “not distracting.” (Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety)
* Motorists with smart phones use hand-held devices in 88 out of every 100 trips. Therefore, Zendrive estimates that there are about 600 million trips involving distracted driving in the US every day. (Zendrive)
* Virginia DMV:
  + 15% of all fatal crashes were distraction-related in 2018. This number is likely understated as distraction is sometimes difficult to measure in the event of a fatality.
  + Total distracted driving fatalities, top jurisdictions (starting with worst): Prince William County, Fairfax County, Fauquier County, Hanover County, Spotsylvania County, Stafford County, Richmond City, Chesapeake City, Virginia Beach City
  + Per Capita distracted driving fatalities, top jurisdictions (starting with worst): Nottoway County, Brunswick County, Page County, King and Queen County, Rockbridge County, Charles City County, Greensville County, Goochland County, Caroline County, Prince George County
  + Total distracted driving injury crashes, top jurisdictions (starting with worst): Fairfax County, Prince William County, Virginia Beach City, Hampton City, Newport News City, Loudoun County, Richmond City, Henrico County, Chesterfield County, Chesapeake City
  + Per capita distracted driving injury crashes, top jurisdictions (starting with worst): Emporia City, Greensville County, Fredericksburg City, Petersburg City, Hampton City, Lynchburg City, Montgomery County, Hopewell City, Newport News City, Tazewell County

*Questions? Contact DRIVE SMART Virginia at 804-929-6117 drivesmartva.org*